Seminar Chapters 6-16 A Long Way Gone

1. Why does Ishmael become so engrossed in being in the child soldier “gang”? What does being in a gang in the US offer people? Where is Ishmael Beah at this point on Maslow’s hierarchy of Needs?
2. Can Ishmael Beah recover from the horrible things that he has done? What makes you think that he can? What makes you think that he can’t? What does he need to recover? Could you recover from a horrible experience?
3. What responsibility (if any) do countries such as the US/ United Nations have to stop the use of child soldiers in Sierra Leone?
4. If you were President of the US, and you found out about a country or a military group who used child soldiers, what (if anything) would you do about this?
5. From what you have learned about blood diamonds, does this make you think differently about the people who make/produce the products you purchase?
6. Describe Ishmael Beah in one word. How does this word describe him?
7. Should Ishmael Beah be held accountable for what he did? Should juveniles in the US be held accountable for killings based on “orders” from adults?
8. Does Ishmael Beah show the beauty of Africa?
9. What question would you ask Ishmael Beah if you could?
10. How is Ishmael Beah’s story similar to the speaker we had in class? How is it different? What do you still want to know about modern Africa?